

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-13
JUSE-00 NSAE-00 CTME-00 SNM-05 TRSE-00 OES-09
OMB-01 PA-01 L-03 HA-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00
/062 W

-----090817 111754Z /73

O R 111728Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 876
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ
USICA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 3255

EO 11652 GDS
TAGS: PINT, SNAR, SHUM, HO
SUBJECT: NARCOTICS SCANDAL: NEWSPAPERMAN RELEASED

REF: (A) TEGUCIGALPA 3212, (B) TEGUCIGALPA 3185

1. THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF SAN PEDRO SULA DAILY "TIEMPO"
MANUEL GAMERO, WAS RELEASED FROM DETENTION JULY 10. GAMERO
HAD BEEN HELD FOR FIVE DAYS WHILE THE CRIMINAL COURT JUDGE IN-
VESTIGATED HIS POSSIBLE CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY APPARENTLY BECAUSE
OF AN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED JUNE 5 IN "TIEMPO" WITH WANTED CRIMINAL
(REFTELS) RAUL MATA, WHO AFTER FOUR MONTHS IN HIDING WAS FINALLY
ARRESTED JULY 4, THE DAY BEFORE GAMERO'S DETENTION.

2. MINISTER OF INFORMATION O'CONNOR REITERATED HIS PREVIOUS
DENIAL OF EXECUTIVE BRANCH INVOLVEMENT IN THE JUDGE'S DECISION TO
DETAIN GAMERO. HE ADDED THAT THE DECISION TO RELEASE GAMERO WAS
ENTIRELY THE JUDGE'S ALSO.

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3. THE SAN PEDRO JUDGE DETERMINED TO ARREST "TIEMPO'S"
CARTOONIST, ROBERTO RUIZ, ON A CHARGE OF AIDING MATA WHILE
THE LATTER WAS IN HIDING. RUIZ ALLEGEDLY HAD COMMERCIAL DEALINGS WITH
MATA IN A MAGAZINE VENTURE.

4. COMMENT: AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF "TIEMPO" GAMERO'S

DETENTION WAS WIDELY SEEN AND PROTESTED AS A REPRISAL FOR THE
PAPER'S VIGOROUS INVESTIGATION OF THE NARCOTICS SCANDAL, IN SPITE OF
THE GOVERNMENT'S DENIALS AND THE LEGALITY OF THE PROCEDURES.
RUIZ' ARREST IS ALSO CORRECT LEGALLY, AND DOES NOT HAVE THE
IMPACT OF GAMERO'S DETENTION. THE INCIDENT SEEM TO BE CLOSED INSOFAR
AS GAMERO IS CONCERNED. WHETHER A WARNING OR A REPRISAL, OR
NOT, HONDURAS' UNFETTERED PRESS HAS GIVEN EVERY INDICATION IT
INTENDS TO CONTINUE ITS INVESTIGATIONS.
BARTCH

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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